

HONORING VICTORIA BRANDON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Victoria Brandon, whom I have named the 5th Congressional District's 2022 Climate Crisis Champion from Lake County for her inspiring leadership in combatting the climate crisis currently gripping our communities.

Victoria Brandon was born in New York City and attended Brandeis University. She has been a California resident since 1976, and she has resided in Lake County since 1981.

Ms. Brandon has been an active community member, beginning her service in 2004 as Secretary of the Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch, where she served until 2020. The next year, she increased her involvement by joining the Sierra Club Lake Group, followed by the Tuleyome Board of Directors and then the Sierra Club Redwood Chapter, which she still serves to this day. From 2009 to 2015, Ms. Brandon represented the Sierra Club on the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee, which she chaired in 2013. Additionally, she chaired the Sierra Club Agriculture and Food Task Force from 2014 to 2015. Ms. Brandon was also a member of the Sierra Club national political team from 2013 to 2021, serving as the chair from 2016 to 2021.

Ms. Brandon has worked on many essential environmental projects, such as the designation of Cache Creek as Wild and Scenic River in 2005, the adoption of California Strategic Framework on invasive species in 2010, the development of Sierra Club policy on Agriculture and Food in 2015, and the designation of Berryessa Snow Mountain National monument in 2015. Ms. Brandon founded the Sierra Club Grassroots Network Team on Food and Agriculture in 2016 and organized the data on Clear Lake Hitch spawning migrations from 2004 until 2020. When Ms. Brandon is not fighting for climate justice, she enjoys reading, gardening, and other outdoor activities.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Victoria Brandon has dedicated her life to combating the climate crisis in our communities. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

DON CHILDEARS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Childears of the Colorado Bankers Association on his retirement.

For more than forty years, Don has served the Colorado banking community in his role as Chief Executive Officer of the Colorado Bankers Association. He got his start in public policy on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. and managed several successful congressional campaigns before joining CBA in 1975. During his time at CBA, Don navigated the adoption of branch banking in Colorado and was instrumental in creating the Executive Development Institute at the Graduate School of Banking at

Colorado. He also worked with Congress on legislation such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the Dodd-Frank Act, and federal legislation to protect banks and other businesses from liability surrounding Y2K issues. Don has been a national leader in helping banks navigate the conflict between state and federal cannabis laws, and he has been a strong supporter of the SAFE Banking Act.

In addition, Don has served on several boards and committees including BancInsure Board of Directors and Reinsurance Committee; Graduate School of Banking at University of Colorado; Trustee and Treasurer, Graduate School of Banking (University of Wisconsin-Madison); and Board Member of the American Bankers Association along with participation on several subcommittees and task forces. Don has a passion for education, and he teaches and lectures to many banking and law schools including the University of Denver, University of Colorado, and George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School. His vast presence and ongoing contribution to the banking community here and across the country earned him the Denver Business Journal's Pinnacle Award for The Most Admired CEO in November 2020. Don has also been recognized with industry awards including the Scarboro Award from CU's Graduate School of Banking.

In addition to Don's work professionally, he has served his community in other capacities. He has served on the Common Sense Institute board, Vice-Chair of Let Colorado Vote, and Chair of the Colorado Competitive Council, to name a few. He remains active on many other campaigns and initiatives, task forces, nominating committees, advisory boards, and charitable and political committees.

I have had the privilege of working with Don on many different occasions and always appreciate his advice and insight on many issues. His hard work and dedication to the banking industry is tremendous. I wish Don all the best in retirement and send gratitude for his service to our community, the State of Colorado, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
AGAMYRAT AGAMBAYEZ**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Dr. Agamyrat Agambayez. This man, still in the prime of his life, was ruthlessly murdered in broad daylight in Tempe, Arizona. The killer took the life of a husband, a father, and an incredible immigrant to this country who was all set to start his new career working at Intel.

This young man was loved by many and led an impressive life that will not go unnoticed.

Dr. Agamyrat Agambayez was an impressive scholar receiving his second Ph.D at Arizona State University. He had also recently accepted an engineering job at Intel that he worked so diligently to get. But most importantly, Dr. Agamyrat Agambayez was a friend to many, an extraordinary husband and a dedicated father to his two year old son. Dr. Agamyrat's wife, Sumeyra Agambayez states, "He had a real bright future . . . he was dedi-

cated, smart, and studied tirelessly for years at universities to start giving back to the community here and abroad in Turkmenistan."

I condemn the crime here, and the loss to humanity. I am appalled at the growing crime and homeless problems in Tempe and Phoenix. Our people need to be assured they can live and work in a community without fear of a murderous car jacker lurking to take one's life and property.

I mourn for his young family. His son will be left with little memory of his father. But I hope one day his son will read these words, and the words of others, and know that his father was a bright star in the sky and made the world a better place. He lived and died with honor.

My thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones and shall Dr. Agamyrat Agambayez never be forgotten.

CONGRATULATING EMILY BEAR
OF ROCKFORD FOR WINNING A
GRAMMY AWARD**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Emily Bear on her Grammy Award for "Best Musical Theater Album."

A graduate of Guilford High School, 20-year-old Emily Bear is a native of Rockford, Illinois. Since graduating in 2017, she has released numerous albums, scored major films with Warner Brothers and has performed at internationally renowned settings, such as the Lincoln Center, the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall. This year, Emily won her first Grammy Award with Abigail Barlow for Best Musical Theater Album for "The Unofficial Bridgerton Musical." Last year, Emily and Abigail began the project inspired by the popular Netflix series by going through the show's plot as if it were a musical. With her hard work, Emily has turned a viral social media sensation into a Grammy Award.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Emily Bear on her first Grammy Award and wish her much success in her life and career.

RECOGNIZING ANNIE BURNS-HICKS

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's true pioneers, Annie Burns-Hicks, the School City of Hammond's first African American teacher. Earlier this year, the Hammond School Board voted unanimously to rename Maywood Elementary School, which she attended in her youth and at which she taught for the majority of her career, to Annie Burns-Hicks Elementary School. The School City of Hammond will be honoring Ms. Burns-Hicks at a special event taking place on April 28, 2022.

The eldest of thirteen children, Annie's family relocated from Mississippi to Hammond, Indiana, in 1944. Her parents, Albert and Mary Burns, sought a better life for their children